



For Release: Wednesday, June 24, 2015

15-921-CHI

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Occupational Employment and Wages in Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis — May 2014

Workers in the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area had an average (mean) hourly wage of \$22.66 in May 2014, similar to the nationwide average of \$22.71, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Regional Commissioner Charlene Peiffer noted that, after testing for statistical significance, wages in the local area were higher than their respective national averages in 6 of the 22 major occupational groups, including construction and extraction; sales and related; and production. Nine groups had significantly lower wages than their respective national averages, including legal; architecture and engineering; and computer and mathematical.

When compared to the nationwide distribution, local employment was more highly concentrated in 6 of the 22 occupational groups, including production; personal care and service; and architecture and engineering. Conversely, 10 groups had employment shares significantly below their national representation, including construction and extraction; food preparation and serving related; and sales and related. (See [table A](#) and [box note](#) at end of release.)

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Milwaukee	United States	Milwaukee	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Total, all occupations	100.0%	100.0%	\$22.71	\$22.66	0
Management	5.0	5.2*	54.08	53.32	-1
Business and financial operations	5.1	5.4*	34.81	31.77*	-9
Computer and mathematical	2.8	3.0	40.37	36.07*	-11
Architecture and engineering	1.8	2.2*	39.19	34.03*	-13
Life, physical, and social science	0.8	0.5*	33.69	30.80*	-9
Community and social services	1.4	1.4	21.79	21.31	-2
Legal	0.8	0.7	48.61	40.40*	-17
Education, training, and library	6.2	5.5*	25.10	26.83	7
Arts, design, entertainment, sports, and media	1.3	1.5*	26.82	23.42*	-13
Healthcare practitioners and technical	5.8	6.2	36.54	37.36	2
Healthcare support	2.9	2.8	13.86	13.86	0
Protective service	2.4	1.8*	21.14	20.23	-4
Food preparation and serving related	9.1	8.0*	10.57	9.73*	-8
Building and grounds cleaning and maintenance	3.2	3.0*	12.68	12.27	-3
Personal care and service	3.1	4.9*	12.01	11.23*	-6
Sales and related	10.5	9.6*	18.59	20.99*	13
Office and administrative support	16.0	15.5*	17.08	17.46*	2
Farming, fishing, and forestry	0.3	0.1*	12.09	15.90*	32

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table A. Occupational employment and wages by major occupational group, United States and the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, and measures of statistical significance, May 2014 - Continued

Major occupational group	Percent of total employment		Mean hourly wage		
	United States	Milwaukee	United States	Milwaukee	Percent difference ⁽¹⁾
Construction and extraction.....	3.9	2.8*	22.40	26.62*	19
Installation, maintenance, and repair	3.9	3.1*	21.74	22.66*	4
Production	6.6	10.0*	17.06	18.05*	6
Transportation and material moving	6.8	6.8	16.57	15.20*	-8

Footnotes:

(1) A positive percent difference measures how much the mean wage in Milwaukee is above the national mean wage, while a negative difference reflects a lower wage.

* The percent share of employment or mean hourly wage for this area is significantly different from the national average of all areas at the 90-percent confidence level.

One occupational group—production—was chosen to illustrate the diversity of data available for any of the 22 major occupational categories. Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis had 82,240 jobs in production, accounting for 10.0 percent of local area employment, significantly higher than the 6.6-percent share nationally. The average hourly wage for this occupational group locally was \$18.05, significantly above the national wage of \$17.06.

Some of the largest detailed occupations within the production group included team assemblers (10,230), machinists (5,670), and first-line supervisors of production and operating workers (5,390). Among the higher paying jobs were gas plant operators; and power plant operators, with mean hourly wages of \$40.53 and \$37.50, respectively. At the lower end of the wage scale were laundry and dry-cleaning workers (\$10.54) and shoe and leather workers and repairers (\$10.94). (Detailed occupational data for production are presented in [table 1](#); for a complete listing of detailed occupations available go to www.bls.gov/oes/2014/may/oes_33340.htm.)

Location quotients allow us to explore the occupational make-up of a metropolitan area by comparing the composition of jobs in an area relative to the national average. (See [table 1](#).) For example, a location quotient of 2.0 indicates that an occupation accounts for twice the share of employment in the area than it does nationally. In the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, above-average concentrations of employment were found in many of the occupations within the production group. For instance, foundry mold and coremakers were employed at 5.4 times the national rate in Milwaukee, and coil winders, tapers, and finishers, at 4.7 times the U.S. average. On the other hand, laundry and dry-cleaning workers had a location quotient of 1.0 in Milwaukee, indicating that this particular occupation's local and national employment shares were similar.

These statistics are from the Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey, a federal-state cooperative program between BLS and State Workforce Agencies, in this case, the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development.

Note

A value that is statistically different from another does not necessarily mean that the difference has economic or practical significance. Statistical significance is concerned with the ability to make confident statements about a universe based on a sample. It is entirely possible that a large difference between two values is not significantly different statistically, while a small difference is, since both the size and heterogeneity of the sample affect the relative error of the data being tested.

Technical Note

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) survey is a semiannual mail survey measuring occupational employment and wage rates for wage and salary workers in nonfarm establishments in the United States. Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands are also surveyed, but their data are not included in the national estimates. OES estimates are constructed from a sample of about 1.2 million establishments. Forms are mailed to approximately 200,000 sampled establishments in May and November each year. May 2014 estimates are based on responses from six semiannual panels collected over a 3-year period: May 2014, November 2013, May 2013, November 2012, May 2012, and November 2011. The overall national response rate for the six panels is 74.3 percent based on establishments and 70.5 percent based on weighted sampled employment. The unweighted employment of sampled establishments across all six semiannual panels represents approximately 57.1 percent of total national employment. (Response rates are slightly lower for these estimates due to the federal shutdown in October 2013.) The sample in the Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area included 5,159 establishments with a response rate of 76 percent. For more information about OES concepts and methodology, go to www.bls.gov/news.release/ocwage.tn.htm.

The OES survey provides estimates of employment and hourly and annual wages for wage and salary workers in 22 major occupational groups and 821 detailed occupations for the nation, states, metropolitan statistical areas, metropolitan divisions, and nonmetropolitan areas. In addition, employment and wage estimates for 94 minor groups and 458 broad occupations are available in the national data. OES data by state and metropolitan/nonmetropolitan area are available from www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcst.htm and www.bls.gov/oes/current/oessrcma.htm, respectively.

The May 2014 OES estimates are based on the 2010 Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system and the 2012 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Information about the 2010 SOC is available on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/soc and information about the 2012 NAICS is available at www.bls.gov/bls/naics.htm.

Area definitions

The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget.

The **Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, Wis. Metropolitan Statistical Area** includes Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Washington, and Waukesha Counties.

Additional information

OES data are available on our regional web page at www.bls.gov/regions/midwest. Answers to frequently asked questions about the OES data are available at www.bls.gov/oes/oes_ques.htm. Detailed technical information about the OES survey is available in our Survey Methods and Reliability Statement on the BLS website at www.bls.gov/oes/2014/may/methods_statement.pdf.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request . Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 800-877-8339.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Production Occupations	82,240	1.5	\$18.05	\$37,540
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	5,390	1.5	29.39	61,130
Coil Winders, Tapers, and Finishers	420	4.7	18.87	39,250
Electrical and Electronic Equipment Assemblers	2,250	1.8	16.42	34,150
Electromechanical Equipment Assemblers	590	2.1	17.72	36,850
Engine and Other Machine Assemblers	80	0.3	20.09	41,780
Structural Metal Fabricators and Fitters	780	1.7	19.45	40,460
Team Assemblers	10,230	1.5	16.89	35,130
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	2,140	1.5	13.32	27,710
Bakers	1,110	1.1	12.39	25,760
Butchers and Meat Cutters	630	0.8	16.26	33,830
Meat, Poultry, and Fish Cutters and Trimmers	270	0.3	13.19	27,430
Food and Tobacco Roasting, Baking, and Drying Machine Operators and Tenders	100	0.9	17.23	35,830
Food Batchmakers	1,120	1.5	14.13	29,380
Food Cooking Machine Operators and Tenders	60	0.3	13.87	28,840
Food Processing Workers, All Other	130	0.5	14.32	29,790
Computer-Controlled Machine Tool Operators, Metal and Plastic	4,010	4.5	19.61	40,790
Computer Numerically Controlled Machine Tool Programmers, Metal and Plastic	550	3.7	23.99	49,900
Extruding and Drawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	380	0.9	14.86	30,910
Forging Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	(5)	(5)	18.22	37,900
Rolling Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	130	0.7	17.09	35,540
Cutting, Punching, and Press Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	3,110	2.7	16.52	34,360
Drilling and Boring Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	200	1.9	21.32	44,340
Grinding, Lapping, Polishing, and Buffing Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	940	2.2	16.80	34,940
Lathe and Turning Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	770	3.0	17.82	37,060
Milling and Planing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	160	1.2	24.28	50,500
Machinists	5,670	2.4	20.00	41,590
Metal-Refining Furnace Operators and Tenders	160	1.2	17.54	36,480
Pourers and Casters, Metal	(5)	(5)	17.17	35,710
Model Makers, Metal and Plastic	120	3.2	27.41	57,010
Foundry Mold and Coremakers	390	5.4	13.75	28,600
Molding, Coremaking, and Casting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	1,990	2.6	14.64	30,460
Multiple Machine Tool Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	1,410	2.4	17.31	36,000
Tool and Die Makers	1,740	3.8	24.30	50,540
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	3,360	1.5	19.54	40,650
Welding, Soldering, and Brazing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	860	2.6	22.92	47,660
Heat Treating Equipment Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	170	1.3	19.11	39,760
Layout Workers, Metal and Plastic	40	0.5	22.31	46,410
Plating and Coating Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Metal and Plastic	730	3.4	14.22	29,580
Tool Grinders, Filers, and Sharpeners	160	2.4	16.49	34,300
Metal Workers and Plastic Workers, All Other	170	1.3	16.08	33,440
Prepress Technicians and Workers	640	2.9	19.09	39,700

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Employment and wage data from the Occupational Employment Statistics survey, by occupation, Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis Metropolitan Statistical Area, May 2014 - Continued

Occupation ⁽¹⁾	Employment		Mean wages	
	Level ⁽²⁾	Location quotient ⁽³⁾	Hourly	Annual ⁽⁴⁾
Printing Press Operators	2,190	2.2	19.67	40,900
Print Binding and Finishing Workers	1,260	4.1	15.56	32,370
Laundry and Dry-Cleaning Workers	1,230	1.0	10.54	21,930
Pressers, Textile, Garment, and Related Materials	110	0.4	11.01	22,910
Sewing Machine Operators	600	0.7	12.75	26,530
Shoe and Leather Workers and Repairers	260	5.5	10.94	22,760
Tailors, Dressmakers, and Custom Sewers	240	1.9	13.01	27,060
Upholsterers	(5)	(5)	13.79	28,690
Textile, Apparel, and Furnishings Workers, All Other	(5)	(5)	9.43	19,620
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	320	0.6	18.06	37,560
Furniture Finishers	50	0.6	17.78	36,980
Sawing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Wood	40	0.1	17.38	36,160
Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders, Except Sawing	280	0.7	13.58	28,240
Power Plant Operators	260	1.1	37.50	78,000
Stationary Engineers and Boiler Operators	70	0.3	26.15	54,390
Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant and System Operators	550	0.8	23.11	48,060
Chemical Plant and System Operators	30	0.2	21.95	45,660
Gas Plant Operators	(5)	(5)	40.53	84,310
Chemical Equipment Operators and Tenders	230	0.6	20.59	42,830
Separating, Filtering, Clarifying, Precipitating, and Still Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	320	1.2	18.61	38,710
Crushing, Grinding, and Polishing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	80	0.5	16.32	33,950
Grinding and Polishing Workers, Hand	370	2.1	16.00	33,290
Mixing and Blending Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	1,010	1.4	18.28	38,020
Cutters and Trimmers, Hand	90	1.0	12.44	25,870
Cutting and Slicing Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	350	0.9	16.08	33,450
Extruding, Forming, Pressing, and Compacting Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	400	1.0	12.81	26,640
Furnace, Kiln, Oven, Drier, and Kettle Operators and Tenders	(5)	(5)	20.08	41,760
Inspectors, Testers, Sorters, Samplers, and Weighers	3,740	1.3	18.41	38,290
Jewelers and Precious Stone and Metal Workers	100	0.7	17.00	35,370
Dental Laboratory Technicians	180	0.8	19.83	41,240
Medical Appliance Technicians	(5)	(5)	15.85	32,960
Ophthalmic Laboratory Technicians	150	0.9	14.93	31,060
Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders	4,150	1.8	15.27	31,750
Coating, Painting, and Spraying Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	1,200	2.2	17.75	36,920
Painters, Transportation Equipment	210	0.7	25.26	52,530
Photographic Process Workers and Processing Machine Operators	200	1.2	15.45	32,140
Adhesive Bonding Machine Operators and Tenders	60	0.6	15.17	31,550
Cleaning, Washing, and Metal Pickling Equipment Operators and Tenders	50	0.5	14.13	29,390
Etchers and Engravers	(5)	(5)	16.37	34,050
Molders, Shapers, and Casters, Except Metal and Plastic	160	0.8	17.21	35,790
Paper Goods Machine Setters, Operators, and Tenders	940	1.7	17.25	35,880
Helpers--Production Workers	2,680	1.1	13.23	27,520
Production Workers, All Other	1,750	1.3	15.64	32,530

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Footnotes:

- (1) For a complete listing of all detailed occupations in Milwaukee-Waukesha-West Allis, WI, see www.bls.gov/oes/current/oes_33340.htm
- (2) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.
- (3) The location quotient is the ratio of the area concentration of occupational employment to the national average concentration. A location quotient greater than one indicates the occupation has a higher share of employment than average, and a location quotient less than one indicates the occupation is less prevalent in the area than average.
- (4) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by a 'year-round, full-time' hours figure of 2,080 hours; for those occupations where there is not an hourly mean wage published, the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.
- (5) Estimate not released.